

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, KS, UR, JA

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF KOREAN-SOVIET CONTACTS AND OF JAPANESE-KOREAN DISCUSSION ON TOKTO ISSUE

1. SUMMARY: ALL PAPERS PROMINENTLY CARRIED REPORTS OF ARRIVALS OF ROKG MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS SHIN HYON-HWACK IN SOVIET UNION TO ATTEND WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE AND OF TWO KOREAN CORRESPONDENTS ISSUED VISAS TO COVER CONFERENCE. PAPERS ALSO CARRIED REPORTED AGREEMENT BY ROKG TO JAPANESE FISHING IN WATERS AROUND DISPUTED TOKTO ISLAND. END SUMMARY.

2. ARRIVAL OF MINISTER SHIN TO PARTICIPATE IN WHO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND OF ONE HANKOOK ILBO REPORTER AND ONE HAPDONG CORRESPONDENT TO COVER THE CONFERENCE IN SOVIET CITY OF ALMA ATA WAS REPORTED AS THE FIRST STAGE OF POSSIBLY BROADER EXCHANGES BETWEEN KOREA AND THE SOVIET UNION IN THE FUTURE. PAPERS MENTIONED THAT SHIN'S VISIT IS FIRST BY CABINET-LEVEL ROKG OFFICIAL TO USSR AND THE FIRST TIME THAT USSR HAS ISSUED VISAS TO ROK NEWSMEN. REPORTS DESCRIBED WARM RECEPTION SHIN RECEIVED UPON HIS ARRIVAL AND A JAPANESE CORRESPONDENT QUOTED HIM AS SAYING "EXCHANGES BETWEEN

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THE KOREAN AND SOVIET PEOPLES IS THE CURRENT OF THE TIMES." SOME REPORTS ALSO TIED IN THE RECENT PARTICIPATION BY A KOREAN WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM IN LENINGRAD COMPETITION AS INDICATIVE OF THIS TREND. NO EDITORIAL COMMENT YET.

3. PAPERS ALSO CARRIED JAPANESE PRESS REPORTS THAT ROKG

IN THE RECENT TENTN JAPAN-ROK MINISTERIAL MEETING AGREED
TO ALLOW JAPANESE FISHING WITHIN THE 12-NAUTICAL MILE
LIMIT OF TOKTO ISLAND, CAUSING OPPOSITION LEADER LEE
CHUL-SEUNG TO DECLARE THAT THE OPPOSITION NEW DEMOCRATIC
PARTY WOULD INTRODUCE A VOTE OF NO-CONFIDENCE AGAINST
FORMIN PAK TONG-CHIN AS SOON AS THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
RECONVENES 9/20. THE NDP LEADER CHARGED THAT ALLOWING
FISHING NEAR TOKTO ABANDONS KOREA'S CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY
OVER THE ISLAND. ROK MOFA HAS DENIED THAT ROKG AGREED
TO JAPANESE FISHING. ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT SO FAR HAS
BEEN FROM CHUNGANG ILBO, WHICH STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT
THE QUESTION OF WHO OWNS TOKTO CANNOT EVEN BE MENTIONED
BECAUSE HISTORICALLY IT IS KOREAN, BUT THAT THE ISLAND'S
JOINT DEVELOPMENT BY ROK AND JAPAN MAY BE DISCUSSED.
GLEYSTEN

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